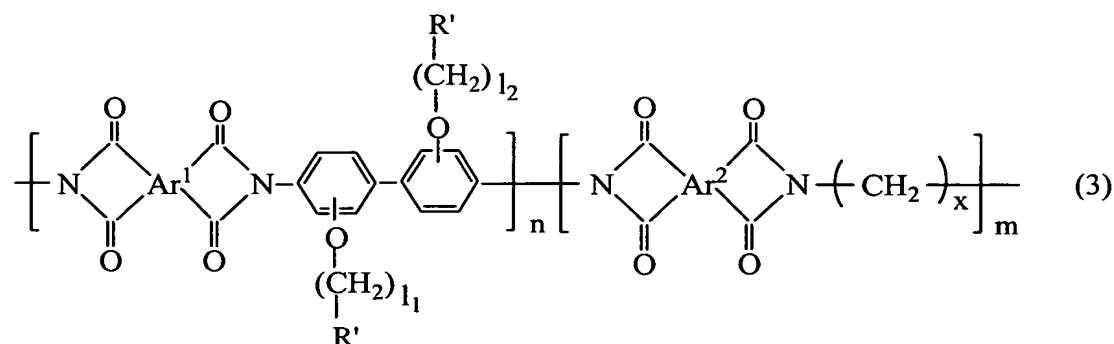


Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] More preferably, it is represented by the following general formula (3):

[Formula 3]



(in the formula (2), each of Ar¹ and Ar² is an aromatic ring having a carbon number of 6-20, which forms an imide ring of 5 or 6 atoms with an imide group adjoining thereto. In the aromatic ring, a part of carbon atoms may be substituted with S, N, O, SO₂ or CO, or a part of hydrogen atoms may be substituted with an aliphatic group, a halogen atom or a perfluoro aliphatic group. Ar¹ and Ar² may be same or different. x shows the carbon number of an alkylene group and is an integer of 1-20. ~~Ar³ is an aromatic ring having a carbon number of 6-20 in which at least a part of hydrogen atoms is substituted with at least one of sulfoalkoxy group, carboalkoxy group and phosphoalkoxy group having a carbon number of 1-20 and a part of carbon atoms in these groups may be substituted with S, N, O, SO₂ or CO, or a part of hydrogen atoms may be substituted with an aliphatic group, a halogen atom or a perfluoro aliphatic group.~~ R' is at least one of a sulfonic acid group, a carboxylic acid group and phosphinic acid group, and each of l₁ and l₂ is a carbon number of at least one of a sulfoalkoxy group, a carboalkoxy group and a phosphoalkoxy group and is an integer of 1-20. l₁ and l₂ may be the same or different. n and m show a polymerization degree and are an integer of not less than 2.)

Please amend paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] Among them, the polyimide resin represented by the general formula (2) is preferable, and the polyimide resin represented by the general formula (3) is particularly preferable. In this case, the carbon number of the alkoxy group shown by l₁, l₂ in the ~~general formulae (2) and~~ formula (3) is preferable to be 3 or 4 in view of the easiness of the synthesis and the availability of starting materials.

Please amend paragraph [0047] with the following amended paragraph:

[0047] Further, a part of the alkylene groups shown by R in the general formula (1) can include a crosslinking structure. In this case, the amount of a crosslinking agent used and selected from compounds of the following formula 12 is not particularly limited, but it is preferable to be a molar amount of 0.005-0.5 times to the aromatic tetracarboxylic acid di-anhydride compound.

Please amend paragraph [0071] with the following amended paragraph:

[0071] (Preparation of catalyst layer-membrane/electrode assembly)

In 10 mL of m-cresol/DMF (volume ratio: 1/9) are kneaded 1 g of carbon black highly dispersed with 30 wt% of platinum and 1.00 g of the polyimide resin of test Example 1. 0.15 mL of the resulting paste is uniformly applied onto a gas diffusion layer (area: 10 cm²) made from a wet-proof carbon paper and dried at 80°C for 2 hours. It is cold-pressed (10 kg/cm², 10 sec) and immersed in 400 mL of an ethanol solution of 1N nitric acid for 12 hours with stirring. After this acid treatment is further repeated two times, the resulting electrode catalyst is washed with ethanol and dried at 80°C for 2 hours. The acid-treated polyimide membrane (thickness: 50 μm, area: 10 cm²) as shown by numeral 10 in FIG.1 is sandwiched between two electrode catalysts and hot-pressed to obtain a catalyst layer-membrane/electrode assembly as shown by numeral 11 in FIG.1.

Please amend paragraph [0074] with the following amended paragraph:

[0074] A lead wire having a resistor 18 is connected between both the ~~current collecting portions~~ separators 16A and 16B and hydrogen is supplied to the anode side (200 mL/min, 90°C humidification) and oxygen is supplied to the cathode side (100 mL/min, 60°C humidification) to obtain a current-potential characteristic measured at 80°C as shown in Table 2.